

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16182

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD ENRG EFIN UR PL COMECON

SUBJ: NEW SOVIET-POLISH TRADE PROTOCOL: POLITICAL CLEARANCE BY
L.I. BREZHNEV

REF: (A) WARSAW 6516; (B) WARSAW 6471; (C) MOSCOW 15958

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA STATES THAT 1974 SOVIET-POLISH TRADE PROTOCOL
SIGNED IN WARSAW DECEMBER 28 BY SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
PATOLICHEV CONFORMS WITH GUIDELINES AGREED UPON BY GIEREK AND
BREZHNEV DURING GIEREK'S SUDDEN VISIT TO MOSCOW TEN DAYS EARLIER.
THIS UNUSUAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BY PARTY
LEADERSHIP AND FACT THAT NEW PROTOCOL ASSURES POLAND OF CRUDE OIL
SUPPLIES THROUGH 1974 APPEARS TO US AS POSSIBLE SOVIET USE OF
ENERGY CRISIS TO EFFECT STRONGER POLISH INVOLVEMENT IN CEMA
INTEGRATION PROGRAM AND OFFSET ANY ACCELERATION IN POSSIBLE
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WESTWARD DRIFT IN POLISH FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO TASS REPORTS FROM WARSAW PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA DECEMBER 29 TEND TO FURTHER CONFIRM THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF GIEREK'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS TO DISCUSS CLOSER ALIGNMENT OF SOVIET-POLISH ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF CEMA INTEGRATION PROGRAM. THEY COMPLEMENT INFORMATION REPORTED IN WARSAW'S REFTEL (A) THAT NEWLY SIGNED POLISH-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL ASSURES POLAND OF CONTINUED SUPPLY OF SOVIET CRUDE AT NO INCREASE IN PRICE IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED POLISH PARTICIPATION IN CEMA PROJECTS IN USSR, AND ALSO THAT OIL WAS IMPORTANT TOPIC IN BREZHNEV-GIEREK TALKS.

3. DISCUSSING VISIT TO WARSAW BY SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV FOR DECEMBER 28 SIGNATURE OF 1974 TRADE PROTOCOL, TASS REPORT EMPHASIZES EARLIER MEETING IN MOSCOW BETWEEN GIEREK AND BREZHNEV HAD "GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR FURTHER TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO FRATERNAL COUNTRIES." BECOMING MORE SPECIFIC, SECOND ARTICLE QUOTES PATOLICHEV AS TELLING TASS CORRESPONDENT, JUST AFTER SIGNING CEREMONY, THAT "IN PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT BOTH SIDES TRIED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO SUCCESSFULLY MEET OBJECTIVES ESTABLISHED BY FIRST SECRETARY OF CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE L.I. BREZHNEV AND FIRST SECRETARY OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PWP E. GIEREK DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN MOSCOW." POLISH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER OLECHOWSKI IS ALSO QUOTED ON "DECISIVE SIGNIFICANCE" OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH USSR FOR DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT OF POLAND. ELSEWHERE ARTICLE MENTIONS EXPANSION OF SPECIALIZATION AND COOPERATION, FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL DELIVERIES AND OTHER STANDARD REFERENCES IN LITANY OF CEMA INTEGRATION.

4. COMMENT. VIEWED FROM HERE, WE FIND SOVIET-POLISH NEGOTIATIONS OVER PAST 14 DAYS A UNIQUE EXERCISE IN SOVIET-EE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF SOVIET USE OF CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS TO APPLY ECONOMIC LEVERAGE. IN COURSE OF FAIRLY STEADY FLOW OF EAST EUROPEAN OFFICIALS THROUGH MOSCOW FOR CEMA MEETINGS, TRADE TALKS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROTOCOLS, IT IS UNUSUAL FOR PRESS TO REPORT ON EAST EUROPEAN PARTY LEADER COMING HERE ON SUCH BUSINESS. ON BASIS OF PICTURE WHICH HAS EMERGED, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WORDING USED

IN WARSAW'S REFTEL (B) MAY BE CORRECT, NAMELY THAT GIEREK WAS INDEED "TRUNDLED OFF TO MOSCOW" TO TAKE PART IN BRIEF CEREMONY DESIGNED TO LOCK POLAND FURTHER INTO CEMA NET. ALTERNATIVELY, GIEREK MAY HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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DECIDED TO MAKE QUICK TRIP TO MOSCOW TO ATTEMPT TO SETTLE OIL PROBLEM PERSONALLY BEFORE PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED. IN ANY EVENT, POLAND'S STRONG DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET OIL IN MIDST OF WORLD ENERGY CRISIS GAVE SOVIETS FINE OPPORTUNITY FOR ARM TWISTING.

5. WE ALSO SPECULATE THAT CONTINUED REFERENCES IN SOVIET PRESS TO POLISH-SOVIET FRATERNAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY, HELPFUL SOVIET AID FOR KATOWICZE STEEL MILL AND OTHER PROJECTS MAY REFLECT SOVIET

CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE ACCELERATION OF WESTWARD DRIFT IN POLSIH
FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. CONCLUSION OF NEW TRADE PROTOCOL, ON
TERMS PERSONALLY ARRANGED AT HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL, IS UNDOUBTEDLY
REASSURING TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP.SOMMERLATTE

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